

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 8 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis of a hip able to allow the articulation of a femur in a corresponding acetabular seating and comprising:

at least a femoral head of a hemispherical shape able to be inserted into said acetabular seating, and

pin means able to be engaged and clamped in a top portion of said femur,

wherein said femoral head is a distinct and removable component with respect to said pin means, and

wherein said pin means are provided with, or are associated with, coupling means able to be inserted into a mating cavity of said femoral head in order to obtain a removable constraint between said femoral head and said pin means,

said coupling means comprising a flange-type insert on which said femoral head is able to be anchored by ~~means of a~~ first conical coupling between the inner perimeter of said cavity and the outer perimeter of said flange-type insert,

wherein said flange-type insert comprises a first portion able to be coupled by said first conical coupling in said mating cavity of said femoral head, and

wherein said flange-type insert comprises a second portion, in which a seating is made, able to allow a second coupling of said flange-type insert with an upper end of said pin means, wherein said second coupling is of the conical type.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said first portion is hollow inside and defines a relative seating to at least partially surround said top portion and to attach thereto.

7. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said coupling means are removable with respect to said pin means.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1 [[8]], wherein in an upper zone of said second portion there is a housing seating for an attachment screw able to clamp said flange-type insert in an assembled condition with said pin means.

11. (Withdrawn) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said flange-type insert is able to be rested on said top portion.

12. (Withdrawn) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 11, wherein said flange-type insert is in the shape of a flat disc, having in its central portion a seating for the coupling and the attachment of an upper end of said pin means.

13. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said flange-type insert is coupled eccentrically with said femoral head.

14. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1 [[8]], wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is coaxial with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

15. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1 [[8]], wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is angled with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

16. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1 [[8]], wherein the axis of the cone of said first coupling is offset and parallel with respect to the axis of the cone of said second conical coupling.

17. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said flange-type insert is able to be cemented on said top portion.

18. (Withdrawn) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said coupling means are made in a single piece with said pin means.

19. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said femoral head is made of a different anti-wear material with respect to said pin means, which are made of a material able to be easily integrated with a bone tissue.

20. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said pin means and said flange-type insert are made of titanium or titanium alloy, whereas said femoral head is made of a cobalt alloy, or other material with high mechanical resistance.

21. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said pin means are substantially conical in shape, with a lesser section at a first end on the side where it is inserted in said top portion, and a greater section at a second end towards said coupling means.

22. (Previously Presented) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein said pin means are substantially cylindrical in shape.

23. (Previously Presented) Method to implant a femoral prosthesis as in claim 1, wherein in a first step a pin is inserted from the top portion of a femur letting an upper end thereof emerge, then a flange-type insert is coupled and clamped to said upper end and finally a femoral head is coupled and clamped to said flange-type insert.

24. (Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1 [[9]],
wherein the inner perimeter of said cavity forms a first cone and the outer perimeter of the flange-type insert forms a second cone which when coupled together form the first conical coupling, and

wherein the upper end of the pin means forms a third cone and the seating forms a fourth cone,

wherein each [[the]] axis of the [[cone]] cones of said first coupling is coaxial with respect to each [[the]] axis of the [[cone]] cones of said second conical coupling.

25. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1 [[9]], wherein each [[the]] axis of the [[cone]] cones of said first coupling is angled with respect to each [[the]] axis of the [[cone]] cones of said second conical coupling.

26. (Withdrawn and Currently Amended) Femoral prosthesis as in claim 1 [[9]], wherein each [[the]] axis of the [[cone]] cones of said first coupling is offset and parallel with respect to each [[the]] axis of the [[cone]] cones of said second conical coupling.